

San Antonio River Basin TMDL Stakeholder Meeting

San Antonio River Authority (SARA) offices

8/21/2003

Stakeholders Present: Gregg Eckhardt (SAWS), Mike Gonzales (SARA), Steve Graham (SARA), Steve Lusk (SARA), Nancy Bernard (City of San Antonio Public Works), Ken Diehl (SAWS), Mark Beaman (Texas A&M Corpus Christi)

Stakeholders Absent: Sue Calberg (Salado Creek Restoration Council)

Meeting crew: James Miertschin (JMA), Wendy Block (H&C), Kerry Niemann (TCEQ)

Others Present: Linda Brooks (TCEQ)

Meeting began at 11:10 AM

James Miertschin did introductions, described purpose of meeting

Went through series of Powerpoint slides describing the prior data assessment, results of supplemental sampling, and next phase activities

Main points of presentation:

- In order, discuss Medina River, Salado Creek with Walzem Creek, Upper San Antonio River, and Lower San Antonio River
- 2000 TCEQ assessment showed impairment for fecal coliform or E. coli
- JMA assessment –confirmed impairment
- Describe extent of historical impairment
- Describe supplemental monitoring recently completed
- Present plot of sampling survey results for E. coli
- Present plot of station geometric means for E. coli
- Results indicate that Medina is not impaired, other segments are impaired
- BST activities: library of fecal sources, sampling for unknowns
- Next phase activities
- Stakeholder information

Questions:

Q: How specific can BST get? (SAWS, Ken Diehl)

A: Very. But, we just want to differentiate between wildlife, household pets, humans, etc. We want major categories of potential sources. So far, we have 1,000 samples that have been processed, but not ribotyped.

Q: Do cold-blooded animals produce e.coli? (SAWS, Ken Diehl)

A: No, it's produced by warm-blooded animals, at least in theory.

Q: What is the average cost to add a sample to the BST library? (Mark Beaman, TAMU)

A: Not sure exactly, since A&M AREC uses labor and materials instead of a per sample price, but, I believe it is roughly \$200 per sample

Q: What will be the impact of the BST information on these particular TMDLs (or will this just be useful for future TMDLs?)

A: The BST information we're collecting will be very important for these TMDLs. We want to pinpoint the source and then communicate that information to the stakeholders who can decide what they want to do with the source. There is some possibility that the BST will not work. But without the BST, we would have to guess about the sources. We have high hopes for the BST, but we do not yet know how it is going to turn out.

Comment: (Mike Gonzales, SARA) Medina River is not on the 2003 draft 303d list. It probably will be delisted, and will not require a stakeholder group.

Q: What kind of model will you use?

A: HSPF or QualTX is the present plan.

Comment: (Steve Graham, SARA) USGS and SAWS developed a HSPF model that uses land use, transportation, etc to predict loads. SARA, SAWS, and the City are working on a GIS-based model of the Bexar County portion of the watershed that involves several models. The initial focus was upon flood prediction. It would be desirable if we could develop our model to be consistent with their criteria for the GIS-based framework.

Q: Will the model you use be GIS based?

A: No, not expected at the present time.

Note: We will obtain information regarding the modeling that the USGS conducted. We will coordinate with Steve Graham regarding the standards for models that they are using or developing to determine if we can be compatible.